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THE
TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REFUGE.

WITH
AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE TREASURER,

The Annual Report of the Ladies' Committee, and those of the Superintendents and Principal Teachers, &c.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
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1856.

## OFFICERS AND MANAGERS FOR 1856.

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*President*, THOMAS EARP.

*Vice-Presidents*, { JAMES J. BARCLAY,  
ISAAC COLLINS.

*Treasurer*, WILLIAM M. COLLINS.

*Secretary*, ALEXANDER HENRY.

### *Managers.*

THOMAS EARP, *Chairman.*

ALEXANDER HENRY, *Secretary.*

Peter Hay,  
John Farnum,  
John W. Claghorn,  
Isaiah Hacker,  
Henry Perkins,  
John M. Ogden,  
William Shippen, M D.,  
John Robbins, Jr.,  
John L. Goddard,

Jeremiah Hacker,  
Alexander Fullerton,  
Caspar Wister, M. D.,  
George M. Troutman,  
William S. Perot,  
George W. Fobes,  
Paul T. Jones,  
Arthur G. Coffin,  
Joshua L. Bailly,

William Martin,  
Thomas T. Butcher,  
Stephen Colwell,  
Edward Yarnall,  
Thomas L. Kane,  
N. B. Browne,  
Isaiah P. Fitler.  
Thomas A. Budd,

### *Indenturing Committee.*

Thomas Earp,  
Isaac Collins,

John W. Claghorn,  
John M. Ogden,

George W. Fobes.

*Counsellors*, { Joseph R. Ingersoll,  
Henry J. Williams.

*Physician*, Ellerslie Wallace, M. D.

### *Ladies' Committee.*

Mrs. Maria Wood,  
Mary B. Sharpless,  
Eliza S. Jones,  
Hetty M. Newkirk,

Mrs. Elizabeth Dawson,  
Mary Boswell,  
Julianna R. Wood,  
Maria S. Hacker,

Mrs. Emily A. Bacon,  
Ann Earp,  
Miss Ann Leamy,  
Mrs. Maria Bispham.

## WHITE DEPARTMENT.

SUPERINTENDENT—Jesse K. M'Keever.

ASSISTANT SUPER'T AND PRIN'L TEACHER OF BOYS' SCHOOL—Wm. Butler.

TEACHER OF BOYS' SCHOOL—Lorenzo Heath.

" " Edward Cassidy.

" " Harriet H. Fox.

MATRON—Elizabeth Morgan.

ASSISTANT MATRON—Sarah Ann Fitzsimmons.

TEACHER OF GIRLS' SCHOOL—Susanna Moss.

## COLORED DEPARTMENT.

SUPERINTENDENT—Elisha Swinney.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AND TEACHER OF BOYS' SCHOOL—James C. Laverty.

ASSISTANT TEACHER OF BOYS' SCHOOL—James H. Laverty.

MATRON—Elizabeth Freeland.

ASSISTANT MATRON—Jane Sproull.

TEACHER OF GIRLS' SCHOOL—Ellie L. Elmes.

*Agent and Book-keeper*, JAMES L. BARRY.

OFFICE—NORTH EAST CORNER OF ARCH AND SEVENTH STREETS.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the Contributors to "The House of Refuge."*

THE Board of Managers of the House of Refuge in submitting their annual statement, respectfully report:—

That the past year has afforded renewed and gratifying evidence of the eminent and increasing usefulness of the Institution entrusted to their charge. Twenty-seven years have now elapsed since this noble charity struggled into active existence. At first, not fully appreciated because imperfectly comprehended, maintained to some extent by the contributions of private liberality, and restricted in its efforts by the inadequacy of its accommodations, its beneficence could not be either properly or widely dispensed. At present, recognized by every one as an Institution largely conducive to the public good, supported in a great measure by appropriations from the treasuries of the City and State, and possessed of all the advantages of ample space and well planned buildings, the House of Refuge extends its wholesome influence over hundreds who participate in its shelter and its care.

Whilst the House of Refuge is regarded with favor by all who give the subjects of education and juvenile delinquency the attention they merit, there are many



who fail to connect this Institution with the general system of education undertaken by the State. It is not sufficiently borne in mind by such, that however important the great undertaking of the Commonwealth, and however vital to the interests of those concerned, there are a large number of parents incapable of appreciating it, and a large number of children who do not enjoy its advantages. It is far within the bounds of truth to say that Philadelphia now contains a population of half a million. Many estimate it at 600,000. But taking it at the former number for our purpose, we suppose there are 125,000 children in this city between 5 and 18 years. In every population the ratio of those between these ages to the whole is about one-fourth. The last Report of the Board of Controllers furnishes the return of 52,000 as the number of children in attendance upon the Public Schools. This leaves the large number of 73,000 not in the Public Schools. If we estimate 13,000 to be in private schools, we have still the large number of 60,000 not fully enjoying the benefits of common school education. If we further suppose, or rather hope, that two-thirds of these are at work in factories and shops, which, we fear, is the largest allowance that can be made, we have still 20,000 growing up in idleness, vagrancy, and crime. Let this host of children be further reduced by every favorable fact and supposition which can be brought to bear upon it, and thousands of candidates for ruin will remain; a number still portentous.\*

|                                                                                                             |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| * The whole number of children in the State by Census of 1850, between 5 and 20 years of age, was . . . . . | 823,000 |
| Whole number attending schools by census of 1850, . . . . .                                                 | 504,000 |
| Whole number attending Public Schools, . . . . .                                                            | 424,344 |
| Whole number at private schools, . . . . .                                                                  | 79,656  |
| Whole number not at any schools except Sunday-schools, . . . . .                                            | 319,000 |

The whole number of youth in the State between 5 and 20 years of age, who are not in attendance in the Public Schools is over 368,000 ; if half of these are at work, and 32,000 are privately educated, we still have 125,000 apparently growing up without education and without proper discipline. The wise and liberal provision of the State thus fails to reach a large mass of the children for whom it was intended. And yet this class not yet reached by the present system of public education is in one sense the most important class. Leaving out of view those who are trained to labor but not educated, and who may become useful members of society, if we look to the probable destiny and condition of those who are neither being educated nor inured to industry, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that they are to become the dangerous classes of society. They are in training to become the worst enemies of social life and good government. They are destined to become the future population of our alms-houses and prisons. From their ranks come murderers, incendiaries, thieves, prostitutes, paupers, beggars, and many other characters that disturb the repose of society, and constantly demand the watchful eye and protective, as well as repressive hand of government. These neglected children are then in an unhappy respect a most important portion of the population of the State.

They become a heavy charge upon the community, regarding them only as an idle and unproductive population ; their maintenance, which is a burden upon the industrious in some form, is not less, man and boy, than one hundred dollars yearly each. If to this we add the waste and destruction of property, by theft, concealment, and fire, the very great cost of criminal prosecutions, police control, prison maintenance, all the expenditure of



alms-house management, and besides the immense sums annually given in charity, we are led to believe that it costs the public, all things included, twice as much to support a criminal and pauper population as would furnish them with food and clothing and a common school education. If only a portion of this class of children in Philadelphia grow up to crime or pauperism, say 10,000, they will prey upon the public at two hundred dollars each, to the annual extent of \$2,000,000. This estimate whether too high or too low, deserves the *serious* consideration of every thoughtful citizen. We must not forget too that this population adds nothing to the productive industry of the State. If they were trained to habits of self-dependence and industry, their united labor would yield a value of not less than \$1,000,000 every year.

The condition and prospects of neglected children are thus important in a political and economical point of view, as well as in their religious or charitable aspects. If it be possible then to save these wanderers from lives of crime or pauperism and idleness, and inure them to industry, the saving would not be merely enough to educate all the other children in the State, but would be an addition to the annual product of its industry of the value of a million. This would be the benefit without estimating the importance of reclaiming to virtue and usefulness, hordes of beings whose lives are steeped in vice, intemperance and indolence.

It is a good omen that the attention of the public, both in Europe and America, is now strongly turned to the important work of reclaiming and educating this unhappy race of youth. Considerable sums have been expended as premiums for the best essays upon their condition, and

the mode of reforming and training them. Many schools for this purpose are in operation upon both continents, in city and country, and whilst multitudes have been saved, a fund of experience has been acquired, which is invaluable for future and more extended operations. This work no doubt belongs in a large degree to the enterprise, the kindness and religious efforts of the good and wise; the details connected with it seem to belong rather to private than official effort. It may be indeed that this great work, than which none, whether public or private, can be more important, may, by individual management, be reduced to such system and facility of operation, as to come ultimately within the scope of public assistance, both legislative and municipal.

The House of Refuge, under the generous patronage of the Commonwealth and the city of Philadelphia, occupies an important position in the work; it stands in the gateway between juvenile delinquency and destitution on the one hand; and the public prisons and alms-houses on the other. It lays a kind hand upon the vagrant child in the path to crime and punishment, or to pauperism, and gives him shelter, food, clothing, education, habits of industry, and thus not only saves him from a life of degradation and wickedness, but prepares him for a respectable and useful career in society. Our object has been to show, that however useful and efficient this Institution may be within the scope of its operations, the work to be accomplished is vastly beyond its power. It is quite probable that if all the agencies needful for reclaiming and educating this vagrant class of children were at work, the House of Refuge might suffice within its special sphere for the whole State. Without these agencies it can accomplish but a very small part of the



work to be done. The House of Refuge whilst greatly indebted to public liberality for its continued efficiency, is yet mainly the offspring of individual munificence. We cannot but hope that the same zeal for human welfare, and the same generosity which gave it birth, will devise and put in operation some expansive scheme by which the whole class of children to which we refer can be reached, systematically reformed and fitted to occupy some useful place in society. We do not doubt when such a plan shall be brought forward, tried, and found efficient, that public aid will be amply accorded. It must be apparent indeed, that when society has by the agency of the government, or by private effort and benevolence, performed its whole duty to the rising generation, it has already more than half anticipated the labor, the care, and the expenditure of the future government.

We may congratulate ourselves, however, that the House of Refuge is not the only institution in Philadelphia devoted to this work, nor its managers the only men who are endeavoring to rescue such children from the life of criminals or mendicants. There are many schools sustained entirely by private charity thus engaged. The number saved in this way is by no means inconsiderable, it may amount to two thousand, it may possibly reach three thousand. But even all this, leaves the great army behind of ten, or twenty, or thirty thousand, as the numbers may be variously estimated. There is then a great work yet to be accomplished,—a work to which we are equally and urgently summoned by considerations of religious charity, public economy, and good government.

The following statement exhibits the number of children who have been inmates of the Refuge during the past year, and the increased number of those remaining



on the 1st of January, 1856, as compared with the number of inmates on the first day of the preceding year:—

|                   |       |        | No. of inmates Jan. 1, 1855. | Received during 1855. | Discharged during 1855. | Remaining Jan. 1, 1856. |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| White department, | Boys, |        | 207                          | 314                   | 335                     | 186                     |
| “                 | “     | Girls, | 44                           | 91                    | 66                      | 69                      |
| Colored           | “     | Boys,  | 73                           | 84                    | 60                      | 97                      |
| “                 | “     | Girls, | 40                           | 27                    | 27                      | 40                      |
|                   |       |        | 364                          | 516                   | 488                     | 392                     |

The greatest number of inmates of each Department, at any one period during the past year, was:—

|                          |         |   |       |   |     |
|--------------------------|---------|---|-------|---|-----|
| Of the White Department, | Boys    | . | .     | . | 248 |
| “                        | “       | “ | Girls | . | 70  |
| “                        | Colored | “ | Boys  | . | 97  |
| “                        | “       | “ | Girls | . | 42  |
|                          |         |   |       |   | 457 |

The average number of inmates of each Department, for the past year, was:—

|                          |         |   |       |      |
|--------------------------|---------|---|-------|------|
| Of the White Department, | Boys    | . | .     | 205  |
| “                        | “       | “ | Girls | 54   |
| “                        | Colored | “ | Boys  | 86.5 |
| “                        | “       | “ | Girls | 39.8 |

|                                       |   |     |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|
| Average number of inmates during 1855 | . | 385 |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|

A kind Providence has been pleased to continue that general good health and exemption from disease which to a remarkable degree has been vouchsafed to the Institution during its whole annals. No death has oc-

curred during the year in the White Department. Among the colored children, two boys and one girl have deceased; but, as in the majority of deaths which have previously taken place among that class, these children entered the Refuge with feeble constitutions and with the seeds of disease within their systems.

The course of instruction provided for the children, comprising the elementary branches of a good English education, will compare favorably with that pursued in the public schools. The appended reports from the several teachers exhibit a gratifying progress on the part of their pupils, and furnish interesting statements relative to the number and comparative attainments of those under their respective tuition.

The chapel of each department has been open on every Sabbath for religious services—which have generally been performed by clergymen of the various religious denominations in our city, to whom the Board would return their hearty thanks for a co-operation which cannot be too highly appreciated.

The Ladies' Committee have continued to afford their invaluable counsel and assistance in the management of the Female Departments; and have evinced to their inmates that kindly sympathy in their welfare, both for time and for eternity, which is powerful beyond all other influence to lead the erring to reformation and self-respect.

Several changes have occurred among the officers of the Institution. In the White Department, Jesse K. McKeever has succeeded John S. Halloway in the office of superintendent. The Board accepted reluctantly the resignation which the ill health of Mr. Halloway obliged



him to tender ; and they cannot refrain from expressing their regret, that one so well qualified for the peculiar duties of the position, should have been withdrawn from such a sphere of usefulness.

David W. Webster, Jr., has resigned as assistant superintendent of the White Department, and has been succeeded by William Butler.

Thomas Perrins and Thomas Shearer, teachers of the Boys' School, White Department, have been succeeded by Lorenzo T. Heath and Edward Cassidy ; and Miss Margaret D. Marshall, teacher in the Girls' School, White Department, by Miss Susanna Moss.

In the Girls' School, Colored Department, Miss Ellie L. Elmes has succeeded Miss Sarah R. Joyner as its teacher.

In the White Department, the boys have been employed in caning seats for chairs and in the manufacture of umbrella furniture and daguerreotype cases. In the Colored Department, besides the manufacture of umbrella furniture, the principal occupation has been making and mending shoes for the use of the inmates generally.

Partly in consequence of the loss of time in the rebuilding of the workshops, (which were destroyed by fire in December, 1854, as stated in the preceding report,) but mainly from the want of employment, the earnings of the boys during the past year has fallen far below the respective amounts earned during several preceding years.

In 1855 the amount earned by the boys, was—

|                          |   |   |   |         |            |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---------|------------|
| In the White department, | . | . | . | \$2,445 | 53         |
| “ Colored “              | . | . | . | 1,638   | 29         |
|                          |   |   |   |         | <hr/>      |
|                          |   |   |   |         | \$4,083 82 |

The aggregate of the earnings in the two departments was, in—

|       |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| 1852, | . | . | . | . | . | . | \$6,654 58 |
| 1853, | . | . | . | . | . | . | 7,851 75   |
| 1854, | . | . | . | . | . | . | 8,483 11   |

Thus exhibiting a decrease in receipts of the past year of more than 50 per cent. of the amount received in 1854.

Whilst the income from this source has thus fallen far short of the reasonable estimates of the Board, the current expenses of the Institution have increased to an amount beyond all precedent. They have been as follows :—

|                                            |   |             |
|--------------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Expenditures for White department,         | . | \$26,613 35 |
| “ “ Colored “                              | . | 10,936 03   |
| Joint expenses,                            | . | 2,174 89    |
| Water Rent and Premium of Insurance,       |   | 660 50      |
| Ground Rent and Interest on Mortgage, &c., |   |             |
| net,                                       | . | 2,755 41    |
|                                            |   | <hr/>       |
|                                            |   | \$43,140 18 |

The large increase in the number of children received, and also in the average number of inmates during the year, the additional quantity of fuel required to warm the premises, but chiefly the great advance in the cost of all articles of subsistence, sufficiently explain the heavy outlay for the maintenance of the House.

To provide for this expenditure the Board received from the State Treasury the annual appropriation of \$6,000, and from the City of Philadelphia the sum of \$13,000, in lieu of that heretofore granted from the County Treasury.

It early became apparent to the Board, that these



appropriations, together with the proceeds of the labor of the boys, would prove insufficient for the support of the Institution during the year. An appeal was made by the Board to the Councils of the City of Philadelphia, for an additional appropriation from the City Treasury. Some doubt being entertained, whether under the recent act of Consolidation, the City of Philadelphia could legitimately grant the assistance asked for, it was deemed expedient to obtain special legislative authority. Accordingly an act, entitled "An Act Relative to the maintenance of the House of Refuge," was passed April 18th, 1855, authorizing the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, annually to appropriate towards the support and maintenance of the House of Refuge, such sum as they may deem expedient, not exceeding \$30,000 in any one fiscal year.

In October last, the Board renewed its application to the City Councils for additional aid, and laid before them a memorial giving a detailed statement of the circumstances and financial embarrassment of the Institution, and in December the appropriation of \$17,000, asked for towards the expenses of 1855, was granted to the Institution.

The House of Refuge commenced its last fiscal year with a large deficit, resulting from the operations of 1854.

The expenses for 1855 were . . . \$43,140 18

To meet such outlay they have received

From the appropriations of the State and

City, . . . \$36,000 00

From the labor of the boys, . . . 4,083 82

From rent of steam-power, rooms, &c., . . . 536 08

---

Making the total receipts for 1855, . . . \$40,619 90

It is greatly to be regretted that just as the long-cherished views of the Board are being realized, under all the advantages incident to new buildings and arrangements, such financial difficulty should occur.

The Board entertain the belief that no greater economy can be practised in the Institution than that which prevailed during the past year.

With the existing high prices for all the necessities of life, 400 children cannot be lodged, fed, clothed, and taught at less than an average expense of \$100 per annum.

But one plan will suffice for the reduction of the current expenditures of the Institution—and that is the lessening of the number of its inmates.

Such plan could only be resorted to with extreme reluctance ; but if no other alternative presents itself to the annual increase of the indebtedness of the House, the duty of the Board will be too plain to admit of question.

The Board entertain, however, the hope that such necessity for the reduction of the number of inmates and consequent restriction of the benefits of the Institution, will be averted ; and that means will be provided for the furtherance of its humane purposes.

In conclusion, the Board would express their trust that the same enlightened and liberal views which have hitherto pervaded the legislative and municipal councils, from whom the appropriations needed for the maintenance of the Institution have been asked, will still continue to guide them.

But above all reliance upon human aid or favor, the Managers would look to the sustaining power of that Being whose blessing has thus far rested upon the House



of Refuge, with confidence that his Divine favor will continue to uphold its efforts for the welfare, temporal and eternal, of those committed to its care.

By order and in behalf of the Board of Managers.

THOMAS EARP, *President.*

ALEXANDER HENRY, *Secretary.*

*Phila., January 1st, 1856.*

# APPENDIX.

## THE HOUSE OF REFUGE IN ACCOUNT WITH WM. M. COLLINS, *Treasurer.*

Dr.

From January 1, to December 31, inclusive, 1855:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| To cash paid for City 6 per ct. loan, being a temporary investment of money received from the Insurance Companies for damage to the work-shops by fire, . . . . .                                         | 6,935 00           |
| To cash paid Killgore & Hudders, amount of contract for rebuilding the work-shops, and also for the balance of old account for carpenter's work done on the New White Department, . . . . .               | 11,633 43          |
| To cash paid premium of insurance on work-shops, . . . . .                                                                                                                                                | 373 00             |
| " " sundry notes, received for the labor of the boys, discounted in bank and returned protested for non-payment, and including protests, . . . . .                                                        | 1,803 07           |
| " " Killgore & Hudders, on account of our bond to them of 45,000 dollars, . . . . .                                                                                                                       | 17,500 00          |
| " " interest for one year to Killgore & Hudders on the above bond, . . . . .                                                                                                                              | 2,685 00           |
| " " one year's ground rent on 30,000 dollars, to the estate of the late Robert Earp, . . . . .                                                                                                            | 1,800 00           |
| " " interest on mortgage loan of 20,000 dollars and on temporary loans, . . . . .                                                                                                                         | 993 94             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <hr/>              |
| " " the estate of Robert Earp, on account of ground rent of 30,000 dollars, . . . . .                                                                                                                     | 5,478 94           |
| " repaid temporary loans from banks at sundry times, . . . . .                                                                                                                                            | 5,000 00           |
| " paid orders of the Executive Committee for the maintenance of the inmates of both white and colored departments, salaries, repairs, additions and improvements, and contingent expenses, &c., . . . . . | 12,500 00          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <hr/>              |
| " " for water rent for 1855, . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                    | 28,785 87          |
| " " new account, balance on hand, . . . . .                                                                                                                                                               | 287 50             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <hr/>              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 134 71             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <hr/>              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <u>\$90,431 52</u> |

NOTE.—On the 31st December, 1855, the Institution had a floating debt of \$26,672 48, towards the payment of which it has \$22,954 00 of the warrants on the City Treasury, leaving a deficit of \$3,718 48, and in addition, it owes a permanent debt of \$45,000, of which \$25,000 is due to the Estate of Robert Earp, deceased, secured by a ground rent; and \$20,000 to Trustees, secured by a mortgage on the premises.



THE HOUSE OF REFUGE IN ACCOUNT WITH  
WM. M. COLLINS, *Treasurer.*

CR.

From January 1, to December 31, inclusive, 1855 :

|                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| By balance of former account, . . . . .                     | \$30 92   |
| By cash received from Insurance Companies for the damage to |           |
| work-shops by fire, . . . . .                               | 7,096 00  |
| "    "    for 200 shares of Lehigh stock, and 40 shares     |           |
| of Lehigh script, . . . . .                                 | 17,730 00 |
| "    "    for sale of bonds of the Lancaster and Mount      |           |
| Joy Rail Road Company, . . . . .                            | 270 00    |
| "    "    from the State treasury, towards the expense      |           |
| of the new buildings, . . . . .                             | 5,000 00  |
| "    being for the balance of subscriptions to the Refuge   |           |
| mortgage loan of 20,000 dollars, . . . . .                  | 7,500 00  |
| "    for interest received on Lehigh stock, and on the City |           |
| and the Delaware and Chesapeake bonds, . . . . .            | 2,723 53  |
| "    received for County loans sold, . . . . .              | 23,469 77 |
| "    "    for the labor of the boys, and the use of the     |           |
| steam power,* . . . . .                                     | 5,526 17  |
| "    for our notes discounted, . . . . .                    | 7,788 33  |
| "    from the State treasury, an annual appropriation to-   |           |
| wards the maintenance of the Institution, . . . . .         | 6,000 00  |
| "    from the City treasury on account of appropriations of |           |
| 30,000 dollars, . . . . .                                   | 7,046 00  |
| "    for Life and Annual subscriptions, &c., . . . . .      | 200 80    |
| "    for the sale of gravel from vacant lots, . . . . .     | 50 00     |

\$90,431 52

January 1, 1856, By balance on hand, . . . . . \$134 71  
E. and O. E., Philadelphia, 1 mo. 1, 1856.

WILLIAM M. COLLINS,  
*Treasurer of The House of Refuge.*

The undersigned having examined the above account and compared the same with the vouchers, find it correct, there being a balance in the treasurer's hands, due to The House of Refuge of one hundred and thirty four dollars and seventy-one cents.

JOHN W. CLAGHORN,  
GEO. W. FOBES.

January 2, 1856.

\* A portion of this sum was for labor performed in 1854, but not paid for until 1855.

## REPORT OF THE LADIES' COMMITTEE.

IN looking over the past year the Ladies' Committee have but little to present, but a regular routine of duty statedly performed. How far this performance of duty influences the conduct of the subjects who are inmates of the House, your committee are not prepared to say ; but that there is much improvement and much less need of rigid discipline than at some former periods, is very evident to those who make frequent visits to these homes of juvenile offenders.

Your committee bear a favorable testimony to the good management and careful treatment of Mrs. Morgan and her faithful assistant, Mrs. Fitzsimmons. The House presents neatness and order ; the girls have been remarkably healthful, look cheerful and happy. They have committed to memory during the year a large portion of Scripture, which, we hope, will be seed sown for future good. Tracts have been distributed, and in our weekly visits explanations of Scripture lessons have been given, the result time only can develop.

At the request of the Board of Managers, the schools have been visited and classes more frequently examined than formerly. In schools so constantly changing, by admission and dismissal, it is difficult to form any correct opinion as to progress.

Miss Freeland and her assistants continue to merit our warmest approbation ; the house is well conducted and bears the appearance of a well-regulated family.

No one can listen to the serious, reverential, and *peculiarly* appropriate manner in which the Scriptures are repeated, at the house for the colored children, without being impressed with the value of the privileges these girls enjoy. One poor creature, who was brought to the Refuge in male attire, and who was as ignorant as if she had dwelt among pagans, after a few months sickened and died. She was frequently visited



by some members of the committee, who endeavored to instruct her in divine things. She passed away in the indulgence of a calm and peaceful hope in her Redeemer, and often expressed gratitude that she had been brought to the House of Refuge.

May all concerned be guided by that wisdom which is from above, and a divine blessing attend all our efforts for the benefit of those entrusted to our charge.

Respectfully submitted,

M. S. HACKER, *Secretary.*

*December, 1855.*

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WHITE DEPARTMENT.

*To the Managers of the House of Refuge.*

The Superintendent of the White Department respectfully reports :

The number admitted from January 1st, 1855, to January 1st, 1856, is as follows:—

|                                         | Boys.     | Girls.   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Committed by Magistrates, . . . .       | 244       | 69       |
| “ Courts of Philadelphia County,        | 21        | 3        |
| “ “ Dauphin “                           | 4         | 1        |
| “ “ Columbia “                          | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Schuylkill “                        | 4         | 1        |
| “ “ Blair “                             | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Lancaster “                         | 2         | 2        |
| “ “ Montour “                           | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Luzerne “                           | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Northampton “                       | 2         | 3        |
| “ “ Bucks “                             | 2         | 0        |
| “ “ Chester “                           | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Berks “                             | 2         | 0        |
| “ “ York “                              | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Bradford “                          | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Lycoming “                          | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Centre “                            | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Susquehanna “                       | 1         | 0        |
| “ “ Montgomery “                        | 2         | 0        |
| Returned, having been indentured, . . . | 15        | 11       |
| “ “ escaped, . . . .                    | 3         | 0        |
| “ voluntarily, . . . .                  | 3         | 1        |
|                                         | <hr/> 314 | <hr/> 91 |



## Discharged :—

|                                             | Boys. | Girls. |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| By indenture, . . . . .                     | 183   | 50     |
| Returned to friends, . . . . .              | 90    | 13     |
| Not proper subjects, . . . . .              | 14    | 1      |
| Of age, . . . . .                           | 4     | 0      |
| Sent to prison, . . . . .                   | 3     | 0      |
| Sent to Almshouse, . . . . .                | 3     | 1      |
| Order of Court, . . . . .                   | 12    | 0      |
| Discharged, . . . . .                       | 11    | 1      |
| Escaped, . . . . .                          | 15    | 0      |
|                                             | <hr/> | <hr/>  |
|                                             | 335   | 66     |
| Remaining in the Institution, Jan. 1, 1856, | 186   | 69     |

130 were committed on complaint, and by request of their parents or nearest friends, namely, 83 boys and 47 girls.

Those admitted were born as follows:—

In the city and county of Philadelphia, 180; in other counties of Pennsylvania, 43; New York, 20; Kentucky, 1; New Jersey, 19; Maryland, 5; Virginia, 2; Connecticut, 1; Delaware, 5; Louisiana, 1; Georgia, 1; Massachusetts, 1; North Carolina, 1; Ireland, 51; Germany, 18; England, 16; Scotland, 4; Switzerland, 1; Cuba, 1; Lower Canada, 2; Italy, 2; New Brunswick, 1; unknown, 3.

141 were of American parentage; 146, Irish; 45, German; 26, English; 4, French; 4, Scotch; 3, Italian; 2, unknown.

Of the boys, 37 had lost both parents previous to their admission into the House; 37, their mothers; 74, their fathers—in all, 148 had lost one or both parents by death.

The average age of boys, when admitted, was 14 years; girls,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  years.

Average number of inmates through the year was—boys, 205; girls, 54.

The greatest number of boys at any one time, was 248; girls, 70.

The boys were indentured as follows:—

To farmers, 123; plasterer, 1; restaurant keeper, 1; cabi-

net-maker, 1; carpenters, 6; bakers, 3; wheelwrights, 2; carpet-weavers, 2; merchants, 2; civil engineer, 1; painter, 1; blacksmiths, 6; shoemakers, 12; tanner and currier, 1; bricklayers, 2; machinists, 3; trunk-maker, 1; potters, 2; manufacturer, 1; book-binder, 1; mariner, 1; clock and watch-maker, 1; tailors, 2; rope-manufacturer, 1; butcher, 1; edge-tool manufacturer, 1; boot-fitter, 1; druggist, 1; gas-fitter, 1; barber, 1. Total, 183.

#### WORK DONE BY BOYS.

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Amount of labor in the cane-shop, | \$1,807 98 |
| “ “ “ box-shop,                   | 308 51     |
| “ “ “ daguerreotype-shop,         | 329 04     |
|                                   | <hr/>      |
|                                   | \$2,445 53 |

#### *In the Cane-Shop.*

|                       |      |       |
|-----------------------|------|-------|
| Umbrella cane made,   | gro. | 1,280 |
| Parasol “             | “    | 620   |
| Seats made and caned, | doz. | 1,172 |

The amount of work in the box-shop cannot be ascertained.

#### *Daguerreotype-Shop.*

|                           |      |     |
|---------------------------|------|-----|
| Daguerreotype-cases made, | gro. | 412 |
|---------------------------|------|-----|

#### WORK DONE BY GIRLS.

|                                          |        |     |
|------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Shirts made,                             |        | 805 |
| Frocks “                                 |        | 211 |
| Jackets “                                |        | 633 |
| Pants “                                  |        | 937 |
| Skirts for girls,                        |        | 70  |
| Sheets,                                  |        | 151 |
| Comfortables,                            |        | 130 |
| Boys' aprons,                            |        | 376 |
| Girls' “                                 |        | 68  |
| Under-garments,                          |        | 146 |
| Capes,                                   |        | 73  |
| Suspenders,                              | pairs, | 370 |
| Carpet-balls,                            | lbs.   | 327 |
| Housework, washing, ironing and mending. |        |     |



## EXPENDITURES OF WHITE DEPARTMENT FOR 1855.

Salaries, . . . . . \$5,537 26

*Provisions.*

|                           |              |                  |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Beef for officers' table, | 3,137 lbs.   | \$309 70         |
| “ inmates,                | 28,270 “     | 1,568 26         |
| Mutton, veal and pork,    | 1,127 “      | 117 00           |
| “ for inmates,            | 720 “        | 61 20            |
| Pork “ .                  | 1,457 “      | 108 13           |
| Ham, . . .                | 206 “        | 30 16            |
| Fish, . . .               |              | 66 35            |
| Rye and wheat flour,      | 90,115 “     | 3,820 58         |
| Corn meal, .              | 20,205 “     | 461 05           |
| Rice and barley, .        | 2,493 “      | 127 19           |
| Potatoes, . .             | 1,055 bus.   | 602 19           |
| Turnips, . . .            | 59 “         | 17 75            |
| Beans and peas, .         |              | 146 48           |
| Milk, . . .               | 1,369 gals.  | 250 51           |
| Butter, . . .             | 636 lbs.     | 195 16           |
| Marketing, . .            |              | 129 35           |
| Coffee, . . .             | 1,414 “      | 157 29           |
| Tea, . . .                | 83 “         | 33 20            |
| Sugar, . . .              | 1,091 “      | 82 67            |
| Cheese, . . .             | 178 “        | 25 34            |
| Molasses, . .             | 1,637 galls. | 536 71           |
| Vinegar, . . .            | 39 “         | 4 94             |
| Spices, . . .             |              | 18 66            |
| Hops and malt, .          | 109 lbs.     | 26 88            |
| Lard, . . .               | 568 “        | 70 99            |
| Salt, . . .               |              | 38 40            |
|                           |              | <hr/> \$9,006 14 |

*Clothing.*

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Boys' clothing, . . .         | \$1,551 80 |
| Girls' “ . . .                | 177 43     |
| Boys' shoes, . . . 822 pairs, | 853 47     |
| Girls' “ . . .                | 102 65     |

Amount carried forward, \$2,685 35 \$14,543 40

|                                                              |             |            |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Amount brought forward,                                      |             | \$2,685 35 | \$14,543 40     |
| Mending shoes,                                               | .           | 244 02     |                 |
| Muslin,                                                      | .           | 5 12       |                 |
| Combs, thread, &c.,                                          | .           | 97 05      |                 |
|                                                              |             | <hr/>      | 3,031 54        |
| Furniture, bedding, brooms, &c.,                             | .           |            | 692 28          |
| Repairs and improvements,                                    | .           |            | 2,570 73        |
| <i>Fuel and heating apparatus.</i>                           |             |            |                 |
| Coal,                                                        | . 776 tons, | \$3,652 45 |                 |
| Rosin,                                                       | .           | 9 00       |                 |
| Tin work,                                                    | .           | 86 53      |                 |
|                                                              |             | <hr/>      | 3,747 98        |
| <i>For light.</i>                                            |             |            |                 |
| Gas,                                                         | .           | 365 34     |                 |
| Candles,                                                     | .           | 16 78      |                 |
|                                                              |             | <hr/>      | 382 12          |
| <i>Cleansing.</i>                                            |             |            |                 |
| Cleaning house,                                              | .           | 156 00     |                 |
| Soap,                                                        | . 3585 lbs. | 203 44     |                 |
| Starch,                                                      | . 61 "      | 6 10       |                 |
| Lime and sand,                                               | .           | 31 28      |                 |
|                                                              |             | <hr/>      | 396 82          |
| <i>Hospital expenses.</i>                                    |             |            |                 |
| Physician's services,                                        | .           | 100 00     |                 |
| Medicines, dentistry, and 14 lots in Glen-<br>wood Cemetery, | .           | 302 69     |                 |
|                                                              |             | <hr/>      | 402 69          |
| Bringing subjects,                                           | .           | 294 89     |                 |
| Sending away subjects,                                       | .           | 22 15      |                 |
| Water rents,                                                 | .           | 230 00     |                 |
| Postage,                                                     | .           | 32 38      |                 |
| Books and Stationery,                                        | .           | 170 82     |                 |
| Printing,                                                    | .           | 19 09      |                 |
| Carriage hire and omnibus fare,                              | .           | 28 04      |                 |
| Sundries,                                                    | .           | 48 42      |                 |
|                                                              |             | <hr/>      | 845 79          |
| Amount carried forward,                                      |             |            | <hr/> 26,613 35 |



Amount brought forward,   \$26,613 35

EXPENDED FOR BOTH WHITE AND COLORED DEPARTMENTS.

|                                                           |        |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Salary of agent, rent of office and Managers' room, . . . | 830 00 |             |
| Printing of Annual Report and paper, . . .                | 115 92 |             |
| “ elevation and paper, . . .                              | 53 62  |             |
| “ memorial, . . .                                         | 65 40  |             |
| “ Prize Essays, . . .                                     | 203 29 |             |
| Advertising, . . .                                        | 38 66  |             |
| Horse keeping, . . .                                      | 428 37 |             |
| Repairing carriages, . . .                                | 155 61 |             |
| Harness and repairs, . . .                                | 113 30 |             |
| Travelling expenses of agent in visiting children, . . .  | 47 25  |             |
| Sundries, . . .                                           | 123 47 |             |
|                                                           | <hr/>  | 2,174 89    |
|                                                           |        | <hr/>       |
|                                                           |        | \$28,788 24 |

The number of inmates admitted during the past year has been one hundred and twenty-four more than in the previous one; while the dismissions exceed those of 1854, by one hundred and twenty-seven.

The short period that has elapsed since my official connection with this Institution, will necessarily prevent any extended remarks respecting its operations. Of its usefulness to society, and individually to those who come under its fostering care, the number who have been rescued from vice, their moral, intellectual and religious faculties cultivated, and who are now useful and virtuous men and women, some of them filling important and responsible positions, is ample testimony, and a sufficient reward for all the labor, expense, and self-denial in producing such valuable results.

Religious influence and industrial occupations are the means used to effect the reformation of the inmates. To these are added the practical illustrations of patience, gentleness and

kindness. Each character is studied, so as to adapt the arguments to suit its peculiarities; using such means of cure as are believed to be most efficient for the eradication of the special moral diseases under which the inmate labors. Conversations are held with each boy privately, for the purpose of inculcating moral and religious truths. Too much importance cannot be given this, as a means quiet and effective in influencing the youthful mind to virtuous conduct.

The health of the inmates during the past year has been remarkably good. Not a death has occurred; and with the exception of one case, the complaints have been slight in their character, yielding readily to medical treatment.

The shops being destroyed by fire, Dec. 19, 1854, no labor was performed by the boys until about the middle of March, 1855. Since then, not one-half of them has been employed, which accounts for the small amount of their earnings. So large a proportion of the boys being unemployed, is a serious disadvantage to the excellent operations of the Institution. It interferes materially with the discipline, induces habits of idleness, and renders those dissatisfied who are employed. Idleness, though not mentioned in the list of offences, is the most prolific source that has led to the commitment of the inmates. While the higher principles and feelings of human nature should be properly and faithfully appealed to, it should not be forgotten that industry is one of the best instructors and protectors of youth.

To the Managers, I tender my grateful acknowledgments for their kindness and valuable advice, and trusting that a kind Providence will still watch over, and protect the interests of the Institution,

I remain,

Very respectfully,

JESSE K. M'KEEVER, *Sup't.*

*January 1, 1856.*

NOTE.—An additional School Session is held for those boys not employed in the work shops.



## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENT.

*To the Managers of the House of Refuge.*

The Superintendent of the Colored Department respectfully reports the number admitted and discharged during the past year, as follows:—

|                                       | Boys.    | Girls.   | Total.    |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Committed by Magistrates of the City, | 65       | 24       | 89        |
| “ “ Courts of the County,             | 6        | 1        | 7         |
| “ “ “ of Bucks County,                | 1        | 1        | 2         |
| “ “ “ of Susquehanna Co.,             | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| “ “ “ of Lancaster Co.,               | 2        | 0        | 2         |
| Returned voluntarily, . . .           | 3        | 0        | 3         |
| “ by master, . . .                    | 7        | 0        | 7         |
|                                       | <hr/> 84 | <hr/> 27 | <hr/> 111 |
| <i>Discharged:</i>                    |          |          |           |
| By indenture, . . .                   | 16       | 15       | 31        |
| Returned to friends, . . .            | 19       | 7        | 26        |
| Discharged on account of age, &c. .   | 19       | 3        | 22        |
| Sent to Almshouse, . . .              | 2        | 1        | 3         |
| Returned to master, . . .             | 2        | 0        | 2         |
| Died, . . .                           | 2        | 1        | 3         |
|                                       | <hr/> 60 | <hr/> 27 | <hr/> 87  |
| Remaining in this Department,         |          |          |           |
| Jan. 1, 1856, . . .                   | 97       | 40       | 137       |

Of those committed, 44 were on complaint of their parents or nearest friends; 21 for vagrancy.

Those admitted were born as follows:—Philadelphia, 43; other counties in the State, 14; New Jersey, 4; New York, 5; Maryland, 3; District of Columbia, 2; Delaware, 2; Virginia, 2; Massachusetts, 1; West Indies, 1; France, 1; the rest not ascertained.

The average age of boys, when admitted, was a fraction under 13; and the girls, a fraction over 13 years.

The average number of boys in the House, during the year, was  $86\frac{1}{2}$ , and of girls,  $39\frac{4}{5}$ .

The largest number at any one time was, of boys 97, and of girls 42.

*The boys are employed as follows:—*

|                               |   |   |   |          |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| In making umbrella furniture, | . | . | . | 41       |
| At shoemaking,                | . | . | . | 26       |
| Miscellaneous,                | . | . | . | 10       |
| Unemployed,                   | . | . | . | 20       |
|                               |   |   |   | <hr/> 97 |

The 20 spoken of as not being steadily employed, have an extra session of school in the morning, and in the afternoon are instructed in knitting and sewing, under the care of the nurse. It is to be hoped that during the coming year something may offer by which they may be employed more advantageously to the House, as well as to themselves, in being trained to habits of industry.

The quantity of wire worked up during the year is 160,000 lbs., and the earnings of the boys in that department amounts to \$1,469 40.

The shoe department was under the management of the House until October 8th, last. There were made up to that time 940 pairs boys' shoes; 180 pairs girls', and 838 pairs repaired, amounting to \$1,552 90. We were able to supply the wants of the White Department as well as ourselves. The shoe department was bought out by Jos. R. Young, who now employs 26 boys, with the expectation of adding to the number, as he may have occasion. The earnings of the boys in this department since that time is \$168 89.

This we consider a very important branch in the employment of the boys, as it will give a knowledge of a business that will be of advantage to them after they leave the Institution.

The girls, in their department, have made the following articles:



|                      |   |   |   |   |          |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----------|
| Pantaloon, (pairs)   | . | . | . | . | 263      |
| Jackets,             | . | . | . | . | 235      |
| Aprons,              | . | . | . | . | 135      |
| Shirts,              | . | . | . | . | 293      |
| Sheets,              | . | . | . | . | 189      |
| Towels,              | . | . | . | . | 81       |
| Dresses,             | . | . | . | . | 124      |
| Skirts, (quilted,)   | . | . | . | . | 14       |
| Under-garments,      | . | . | . | . | 59       |
| Bedticks,            | . | . | . | . | 19       |
| Pillow cases,        | . | . | . | . | 9        |
| Bolster "            | . | . | . | . | 6        |
| Capes,               | . | . | . | . | 14       |
| Shoes bound, (pairs) | . | . | . | . | 56       |
| Carpet balls,        | . | . | . | . | 131 lbs. |

Besides washing, ironing, mending, cooking, and general housework.

#### EXPENDITURES OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENT FOR 1855.

|           |   |   |   |   |            |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Salaries, | . | . | . | . | \$3,059 59 |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|------------|

##### *Provisions.*

|                     |            |          |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| Beef for children,  | 9,404 lbs. | \$529 67 |
| Pork "              | 2 brls.    | 57 62    |
| Beef for officers,  | 1,762 lbs. | 176 20   |
| Mutton "            | 439 "      | 43 90    |
| Ham and dried beef, | 296 "      | 42 64    |
| Codfish, &c.        | .          | 56 37    |
| Wheat flour,        | 20,200 "   | 1,002 57 |
| Rye "               | 17,330 "   | 604 93   |
| Corn meal,          | 2,988 "    | 291 74   |
| Rice,               | 1,928 "    | 110 09   |
| Homony and beans,   | 34 bush.   | 66 68    |
| Potatoes,           | 623 "      | 366 96   |
| " sweet,            | 88 "       | 43 37    |
| Turnips,            | 68 "       | 16 20    |

|                         |            |            |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Amount carried forward, | \$3,408 94 | \$3,059 59 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|

|                         |   |                         |  |            |            |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|------------|------------|
| Amount brought forward, |   |                         |  | \$3,408 94 | \$3,059 59 |
| Coffee,                 | . | 506 lbs.                |  | 56 66      |            |
| Tea,                    | . | 48 "                    |  | 19 20      |            |
| Sugar,                  | . | 800 "                   |  | 62 87      |            |
| Milk,                   | . | 638 $\frac{3}{4}$ gals. |  | 127 75     |            |
| Butter,                 | . | 334 lbs.                |  | 110 29     |            |
| Cheese,                 | . | 83 "                    |  | 11 58      |            |
| Dried fruit,            | . | .                       |  | 10 04      |            |
| Spices,                 | . | .                       |  | 4 06       |            |
| Molasses,               | . | 1,135 gals.             |  | 362 40     |            |
| Lard,                   | . | 170 lbs.                |  | 24 36      |            |
| Salt,                   | . | 6 sacks.                |  | 12 75      |            |
| Vinegar,                | . | 41 gals.                |  | 6 87       |            |
| Sundries,               | . | .                       |  | 145 42     |            |
|                         |   |                         |  | <hr/>      | 4,363 19   |

*Clothing.*

|                      |   |          |  |        |          |
|----------------------|---|----------|--|--------|----------|
| Satinet,             | . | 824 yds. |  | 435 35 |          |
| Drilling,            | . | 536 "    |  | 81 55  |          |
| Calico, Stripes, &c. | . | 697 "    |  | 68 28  |          |
| Muslin,              | . | 2,130 "  |  | 209 45 |          |
| Flannel,             | . | 212 "    |  | 63 60  |          |
| Hats and Caps,       | . | 30 doz.  |  | 71 31  |          |
| Boys' shoes,         | . | 110 prs. |  | 123 82 |          |
| Girls' "             | . | 91 "     |  | 95 00  |          |
| Repaired, shoes,     | . | 435 "    |  | 168 35 |          |
| Stockings,           | . | 17 doz.  |  | 36 71  |          |
| Trimmings,           | . | .        |  | 45 03  |          |
|                      |   |          |  | <hr/>  | 1,398 45 |

*Furniture.*

|               |   |   |  |       |        |
|---------------|---|---|--|-------|--------|
| Hardware,     | . | . |  | 22 89 |        |
| Tinware,      | . | . |  | 53 42 |        |
| Woodenware,   | . | . |  | 45 61 |        |
| Queensware,   | . | . |  | 9 60  |        |
| Carpet woven, | . | . |  | 14 10 | 145 62 |
|               |   |   |  | <hr/> |        |

Amount carried forward, \$8,966 85



Amount brought forward,

\$8,966 85

*Bedding.*

|          |   |   |          |       |       |
|----------|---|---|----------|-------|-------|
| Burlaps, | . | . | 111 yds. | 16 43 |       |
| Straw,   | . | . | .        | 14 01 |       |
|          |   |   |          | <hr/> | 30 44 |

*Repairs.*

|                 |   |   |   |       |        |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-------|--------|
| Carpenter work, | . | . | . | 60 43 |        |
| Brickwork,      | . | . | . | 8 87  |        |
| Plumbing,       | . | . | . | 42 28 |        |
| Hardware,       | . | . | . | 72 65 |        |
| Glazing, &c.    | . | . | . | 14 40 |        |
|                 |   |   |   | <hr/> | 198 63 |

*Fuel and Light.*

|       |   |   |           |        |        |
|-------|---|---|-----------|--------|--------|
| Coal, | . | . | 150 tons, | 655 50 |        |
| Wood, | . | . | 1 cord,   | 6 50   |        |
| Gas,  | . | . | .         | 217 22 |        |
| Oil,  | . | . | .         | 10 00  |        |
|       |   |   |           | <hr/>  | 889 22 |

*Hospital.*

|                                |   |   |   |        |        |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|--------|
| Medicine,                      | . | . | . | 28 20  |        |
| Dentistry,                     | . | . | . | 9 00   |        |
| Physician's salary,            | . | . | . | 100 00 |        |
| Boarding two boys at Hospital, | . | . | . | 28 50  |        |
| Funerals,                      | . | . | . | 32 25  |        |
|                                |   |   |   | <hr/>  | 197 95 |

|                    |   |   |   |   |       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| <i>Stationery,</i> | . | . | . | . | 51 99 |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|

*Miscellaneous.*

|                        |   |   |            |        |  |
|------------------------|---|---|------------|--------|--|
| Soap,                  | . | . | 1,640 lbs. | 127 15 |  |
| Combs,                 | . | . | .          | 4 43   |  |
| Starch,                | . | . | 52 "       | 5 20   |  |
| Sending children away, | . | . | .          | 9 63   |  |
| Bringing subjects,     | . | . | 73         | 68 50  |  |
| Postage, &c.           | . | . | .          | 7 88   |  |
| Garden and hauling,    | . | . | .          | 21 43  |  |
| Brooms and brushes,    | . | . | .          | 50 00  |  |
| Water rent,            | . | . | .          | 57 50  |  |
|                        |   |   |            | <hr/>  |  |

Amount carried forward,

\$351 72 \$10,335 08

|                         |          |             |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Amount brought forward, | \$351 72 | \$10,335 08 |
| Wringing machine, . . . | 100 00   |             |
| Kitchen range, . . .    | 104 50   |             |
| Sundries, . . .         | 44 73    |             |
|                         | <hr/>    | 600 95      |
|                         |          | <hr/>       |
|                         |          | \$10,936 03 |

In the closing of another year we are called upon to acknowledge the watchful care of our Heavenly Father over us, in preserving us from sickness and death. We have had very little sickness and but three deaths, (two boys and one girl,) during the past year. When we consider the habits and the exposure to which most of them have been subjected previous to their entering here, it is a matter of wonder that there have been so few to claim our care in this particular.

There are also many other things which very naturally occur to the mind, at this time, in reviewing the operations of an institution like this. As the character, as well as the disposition, is so varied, and the circumstances under which they are brought here—the manner in which they lived, and been trained, (if trained at all,)—the effect of the discipline of the institution upon them while here, and after they leave. Some, on their entrance, show a disposition to resist all authority, showing very clearly what has been the course they pursued previously; while others show a more tractable disposition, and in a short time the effect of the discipline is manifest. Feeling as we should, that it is, in the full sense of the word, a missionary field of labor, it is an interesting feature in the operations of the institution to witness this progress. There are cases occurring daily among the children who have left the institution, which are of a cheering character; we are receiving accounts of them, such as are calculated to show the good effects of the course pursued with them while here; reference to extracts of letters received from persons to whom they have been indentured prove this. There are also many children who have been returned to their friends, others have been discharged on account of age, and permitted to seek situations for themselves,



and are doing well : clearly showing that the discipline to which they are subjected while here tends to their improvement. We have frequent visits from them, and in referring to their being here, express themselves as being under obligations to the institution for the benefits received. One will say, "I never knew what it was to mind, until I came here." Another, "If I had not been sent to the Refuge, I would not have had any schooling." Another, "I never was corrected for falsehood until I came to the Refuge." Another, "I used to swear, lie and fight, and did not think it was very bad, but now I see it is very wrong, and I mean to abstain from it." A woman, after her son had been returned to her, acknowledging her obligations for the benefits her child had received, said, "If I had sent him to a college he could not have been benefited more than while here," and many more similar expressions, all tending to show what are the effects of their training while under our guardianship.

There is a kindly feeling existing among the officers, which adds very much to the pleasure of laboring among the children, and has great weight in the general discipline of the House.

We would acknowledge our obligations to those kind friends who have officiated in the chapel service, and in the Sabbath-school ; also to those who kindly give us papers for the children to read—they are received with eagerness and read with interest, and impressions made which will be to their future benefit.

The Managers also will please receive our obligations for the kindness extended, and for their aid and council at such times as was needful, by which we have been enabled to discharge the duties devolving upon us. With the hope that our united efforts may be followed by the blessing of the Lord to their future well-being,

This report is very respectfully submitted, by

ELISHA SWINNEY, *Superintendent.*

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL, HOUSE OF REFUGE, WHITE DEPARTMENT.

To J. K. M'Keever, Esq., Superintendent.

|                                           |   |   |     |
|-------------------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Number of boys in school January 1, 1855, | . | . | 205 |
| Admitted during the year                  | " | " | 282 |
| Discharged,                               | " | " | 307 |
| In school at present time,                | . | . | 180 |

In the following table you will find the number of boys admitted to the schools during each month, and their attainments when admitted :

|                          | January. | February. | March. | April. | May. | June. | July. | August. | September. | October. | November. | December. | TOTAL. |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------|------|-------|-------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Alphabet, . . . .        | 3        | 5         | 4      | 3      | 1    | 2     | 2     | 7       | 9          | 4        | 2         | 1         | 43     |
| Spelling, . . . .        |          | 1         |        |        |      | 3     | 9     | 2       | 6          |          | 2         | 3         | 31     |
| Reading easy Lessons, .  | 8        | 8         | 6      | 9      | 10   | 8     | 22    | 13      | 11         | 5        | 7         | 8         | 115    |
| Read tolerably, . . .    | 6        | 2         | 7      | 8      | 7    | 12    | 7     | 5       | 13         | 5        | 7         | 9         | 88     |
|                          |          |           | 1      |        | 1    |       | 1     |         | 1          |          | 1         |           | 5      |
|                          | 17       | 16        | 18     | 20     | 19   | 30    | 41    | 27      | 40         | 14       | 19        | 21        | 282    |
| Could not write, . . .   | 6        | 5         | 6      | 4      | 8    | 9     | 22    | 17      | 20         | 6        | 6         | 5         | 114    |
| Names, mostly on Slates, | 6        | 7         | 3      | 4      | 3    | 9     | 10    | 6       | 5          | 2        | 4         | 7         | 66     |
| Write legibly, . . .     | 4        | 4         | 5      | 7      | 4    | 5     | 7     | 4       | 14         | 6        | 9         | 9         | 78     |
| Write tolerably, . . .   | 1        |           | 4      | 5      | 2    | 7     | 2     |         | 1          |          |           |           | 22     |
| Write well, . . . .      |          |           |        |        | 2    |       |       |         |            |          |           |           | 2      |
|                          | 17       | 16        | 18     | 20     | 19   | 30    | 41    | 27      | 40         | 14       | 19        | 21        | 282    |
| Could not cipher, . . .  | 8        | 6         | 7      | 4      | 8    | 13    | 19    | 22      | 19         | 5        | 7         | 5         | 123    |
| Cipher in Addition, . .  | 2        | 2         | 2      |        | 2    | 2     | 17    | 3       | 4          | 1        | 1         |           | 36     |
| “ Subtraction, . . .     | 2        |           | 1      | 4      | 5    | 8     | 2     | 2       | 5          |          | 5         | 5         | 39     |
| “ Multiplication, . . .  | 2        |           | 1      | 1      | 1    | 2     | 3     |         | 6          | 3        | 3         | 6         | 28     |
| “ Division, . . . .      | 1        | 4         | 2      | 2      | 1    | 4     |       |         | 2          | 4        |           | 5         | 25     |
| “ Den. Numbers, . . .    |          | 4         | 3      | 5      | 2    | 1     |       |         | 4          | 1        | 1         |           | 21     |
| “ Interest, . . . .      | 1        |           | 2      | 3      |      |       |       |         |            |          | 1         |           | 7      |
| Fractions, . . . .       | 1        |           |        | 1      |      |       |       |         |            |          | 1         |           | 3      |
|                          | 17       | 16        | 18     | 20     | 19   | 30    | 41    | 27      | 40         | 14       | 19        | 21        | 282    |

Of the 307 boys discharged during the year  
74 could read very well.  
160       “       tolerable well.  
59        “       easy lessons.  
14 could spell.



26 could write a fair hand.  
 132    "       tolerably well.  
 115    "       a plain legible hand.  
 21     "       their names.  
 13 could not write.

---

307

38 had ciphered as far as Fractions.  
 23    "       "       Interest.  
 58    "       "       Denominate Numbers.  
 74    "       "       Division.  
 53    "       "       Multiplication.  
 29    "       "       Subtraction.  
 17    "       "       Addition.  
 15 could not cipher.

---

307

The boys were only a few days in the Institution, who have been enumerated above, as not able to read, write, or cipher when discharged, and among the number were three boys who could not speak English.

According to the present arrangement of the schools, the 180 boys in attendance are divided into four Divisions, each containing three classes.

From the low grade of their attainments when admitted, the most efficient method of classification has been according to the abilities of the boys in reading. The classes for arithmetic and other studies, are formed from the reading classes in the separate Divisions.

1st Division,

1st class 12 can read fluently.  
 2d   "   17   "    very well.  
 3d   "   16   "    tolerably well.

---

45

These boys are variously acquainted with arithmetic, have

some knowledge of geography and grammar, and many of them can write a very neat hand.

2d Division, in charge of Mr. L. T. Heath.

4th class 15 can read tolerably well.

5th “ 12 “ tolerably.

6th “ 14 “ tolerably.

—

41

These boys cipher as far as Long Division, have some knowledge of geography, and all write on paper.

3d Division, in charge of Mr. H. Cassidy.

7th class 11 read fluently in easy books.

8th “ 17 “ tolerably well.

9th “ 17 “ tolerably.

—

45

These boys cipher in primary rules, 36 can write on paper, the remaining 9 write on slates.

4th Division, in charge of Miss H. Fox.

10th class 16 read easy lessons.

11th “ 12 “ and spell.

12th “ 21 spelling and alphabet.

—

49

These boys are beginning to cipher, 20 can write on paper, 26 write on slates, and 3 are unable to write.

Instruction is given orally in geography, and the principles of English grammar, and many of the boys in 1st Division are beginning to draw maps.

I would here remark, that the exercises of Thursday and Saturday evenings are exclusively devoted to the purpose of imparting religious and moral instruction, and in teaching the boys to sing.

#### *Text-Books.*

M'Guffey's Readers; Emerson's Second Class Book; Am.



S. S. Union 1st and 2d Readers and Spelling Book; Goodrich's History of the United States; Davies' First Lessons in Arithmetic; Davies' Common School Arithmetic; and Mitchell's Primary Geography.

During the past year, the library has received many useful and instructive volumes, through the kindness of Managers and friends of the Institution.

From the deplorable ignorance of the greater portion of the pupils, and the idle and vicious habits they have acquired, the teachers in the refuge school find they have to labor in a field entirely different from any in which they have heretofore engaged. A field in which the evil has taken deep root, and which is almost daily receiving fresh accessions, yet constantly striving to reprove the evil, and earnestly endeavoring to sow the seed for the useful and the good; with "precept upon precept, and line upon line," they will reap their reward. As there is a keenness of perception, and an acuteness of understanding that enables their pupils to acquire any amount of information that may be imparted to them.

I will take this opportunity of returning thanks to the teachers of the different Divisions of the school, for the faithful and satisfactory discharge of their laborious duties; and for the kind and efficient assistance rendered in a course of lectures on "Useful and Instructive Subjects," which will be continued during the winter; and which we have no doubt will be of utility and benefit to the pupils of the Institution.

To the members of the School Committee we return our sincere thanks for the encouragement received from them in their frequent visits to the schools; for their deep felt interest in the advancement and welfare of the pupils; and for the liberal supply of books, stationery, and all the material necessary to conduct the school in a satisfactory manner.

Respectfully submitted by

WILLIAM BUTLER,

*Assistant Superintendent and Teacher.*

January 1, 1856.

## REPORT OF THE TEACHER OF THE GIRLS' SCHOOL, HOUSE OF REFUGE, WHITE DEPARTMENT.

*To J. K. McKeever, Esq., Superintendent.*

The Teacher of the Girls' School, respectfully reports :

|                                   |   |   |   |    |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| Number of pupils, Jan. 1st, 1855, | . | . | . | 44 |
| Admitted during the past year,    | . | . | . | 91 |
| Discharged, " " " "               | . | . | . | 66 |
| Average attendance, " "           | . | . | . | 50 |
| Present number of pupils,         | . | . | . | 68 |

### CLASSES AND STUDIES.

| Class. | Pupils. | Studies.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st.   | 17.     | Orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and history of the United States. These read fluently, write well, and are mostly well acquainted with the Second Part of Emerson's Arithmetic. |
| 2d.    | 19.     | Orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. These read well, write tolerably, and cipher in division.                                                                                   |
| 3d.    | 15.     | Orthography, reading, writing, and arithmetic. These read well, and imitate a copy neatly.                                                                                                            |
| 4th.   | 7.      | Orthography, reading, writing, and arithmetic. These read tolerably, and write their names well.                                                                                                      |
| 5th.   | 10.     | These spell, read easy sentences, and write their names.                                                                                                                                              |

The girls generally evince a disposition to receive instruction, and it is gratifying to state that good results are visible.

Much gratitude is due to the Ladies' Committee ; they have imparted much good advice, and its effects are visible in the school-room.



We would here acknowledge a donation to our library, by Mr. C. Merrian, of Springfield, Conn., of ten volumes of "*Annals of the Poor.*"

The faithful efforts put forth in behalf of these youthful wanderers cannot be unsuccessful; and in humble confidence we leave our cause with Him who has promised, "In due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

Respectfully submitted by

SUSANNA M. MOSS, *Teacher.*

PHILADELPHIA, *January 1st*, 1856.

## REPORT OF THE TEACHER OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL, HOUSE OF REFUGE, COLORED DEPARTMENT.

*To Elisha Swinney, Esq., Superintendent.*

SIR: The undersigned respectfully reports the number of boys attending school, 97; of these, 50 are in the first division, and 47 in the second. The second division is under the instruction of Mr. J. Hood Laverty, to whom credit is due for the progress of this division.

The following tables show the classification and attainments of both divisions, with the average, age, and time of each class.

### *First Division.*

| Class. | No. | Age.     | Time.   |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------|-----|----------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st.   | 15  | 14½ yrs. | 17⅔ ms. | Fluent readers, good writers, practically versed in figures; have some knowledge of geography.                                    |
| 2d.    | 12  | 13       | 16      | General readers, fair writers, practised in figures; have some knowledge of geography.                                            |
| 3d.    | 11  | 15       | 12      | Are respectable readers, write legibly; are variously acquainted with simple and compound numbers; have a knowledge of geography. |
| 4th.   | 12  | 13½      | 15¼     | Tolerable readers, legible writers, variously acquainted with simple numbers, know something of geography.                        |

### *Second Division.*

|      |    |         |        |                                                                           |
|------|----|---------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5th. | 16 | 12 yrs. | 11 ms. | Read in Cobb's No. 3; imitate a copy well; study the arithmetical tables. |
|------|----|---------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|



| Class. | No. | Age.            | Time.           |                                                                           |
|--------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6th.   | 17  | $12\frac{1}{3}$ | $11\frac{1}{2}$ | Read Cobb's No. 2; imitate a copy legibly; study the arithmetical tables. |
| 7th.   | 8   | 11              | 6               | Read easy sentences; write their names.                                   |
| 8th.   | 6   | 9               | $11\frac{1}{2}$ | Read by monosyllables; 1 cannot write his name.                           |

*Text Books.*

Vodges' U. S. Arithmetic, Parts 1 and 2; Colburn's Intellectual Arithmetic; Sacred History; McGuffey's Series of Readers, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4; Cobb's Series, Nos. 1, 2 and 3; Parley's Common School History; Murray's English Reader and Introduction; the Child's 1st and 2d Reading Book; Walker's Dictionary; the Old and New Testaments.

Weekly exercises in Geography are given orally. Short exercises in composition and writing, from dictation, are daily pursued.

*Of 81 Boys admitted:*

|                                      |   |   |    |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Could read with a degree of fluency, | . | . | 3  |
| "    in books generally,             | . | . | 10 |
| "    in easy reading,                | . | . | 21 |
| Could spell by monosyllables,        | . | . | 18 |
| Knew the letters only,               | . | . | 14 |
| Were ignorant of the letters,        | . | . | 15 |
|                                      |   |   | —  |
|                                      |   |   | 81 |
| Could imitate a copy,                | . | . | 18 |
| "    merely write their names,       | . | . | 15 |
| "    not write,                      | . | . | 48 |
|                                      |   |   | —  |
|                                      |   |   | 81 |
| Had a knowledge of compound numbers, | . | . | 5  |
| "    "    simple    "                | . | . | 21 |
| Knew the multiplication table,       | . | . | 10 |
| Had no knowledge of figures,         | . | . | 45 |
|                                      |   |   | —  |
|                                      |   |   | 81 |

*Of 58 Discharged:*

|                                                          |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Could read with fluency, . . . . .                       | 13    |
| Were general readers, . . . . .                          | 18    |
| Could read in easy reading, . . . . .                    | 21    |
| “ spell by monosyllables, . . . . .                      | 4     |
| Knew the letters, . . . . .                              | 2     |
|                                                          | <hr/> |
|                                                          | 58    |
| Wrote a neat hand, . . . . .                             | 15    |
| Imitate a copy well, . . . . .                           | 31    |
| Wrote their names legibly, . . . . .                     | 9     |
| Could not write, . . . . .                               | 3     |
|                                                          | <hr/> |
|                                                          | 58    |
| Had a practical knowledge of compound numbers, . . . . . | 16    |
| “ “ “ simple “ . . . . .                                 | 17    |
| Knew the arithmetical tables, . . . . .                  | 19    |
| Had no knowledge of figures, . . . . .                   | 6     |
|                                                          | <hr/> |
|                                                          | 58    |

The foregoing report is now presented, and exhibits by its figures the attainments of the 81 boys admitted, and the 58 discharged during the past year.

The difficulty of producing in the mind of the pupil a just impression in favor of mental and moral education and improvement, is not easily to be appreciated, and requires in those undertaking the task a considerable degree of patience and perseverance.

The inculcation of a faith in the pupil's mind, that his best interests are invariably consulted, in the various rules and regulations of the school discipline, is a duty of primary importance in a teacher, and we are glad to report considerable success in our efforts to produce a willingness and a desire to improve, accompanied by actual improvement in the schools under our charge.

A steady and moderate administration of the rules, requiring



that they should be permanent, and as few in number as possible, in pursuit of a proper system of control, we have endeavored to follow out this idea, and have to acknowledge the hearty coöperation of each officer, and also that of the efficient superintendent.

The short time a pupil remains in the House precludes the possibility of an extensive education; and the plan of instruction laid down by the school committee is entitled to our commendation and thanks, for the judicious manner in which it meets and supplies, to a great extent, this defect.

The record of the Library shows 3,650 books loaned, being an average of 70 weekly. Our acknowledgments and thanks, for their liberal contributions, are due to the Messrs. Jewell, the editors of the Sunday-School Visitor, and to the Rev. T. G. Allen.

In conclusion, while recognizing the goodness of our Heavenly Parent, for his watchful care over us, we would thank our Board of Managers for their long forbearance in our feeble endeavors, and praying that they and we, with the rescued outcast, may meet above, this report is respectfully submitted, by

JAMES LAVERTY,

*Assistant Superintendent and Teacher.*

*December 31, 1855.*

## REPORT OF THE TEACHER OF THE GIRLS' SCHOOL, HOUSE OF REFUGE, COLORED DEPARTMENT.

*To Elisha Swinney, Esq., Superintendent.*

SIR: I would respectfully report the number of girls attending school at this date, 41, varying in age from eight to twenty years.

### CLASSIFICATION.

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| The 1st class contains, . . . . . | 10 |
| 2d " " . . . . .                  | 9  |
| 3d " " . . . . .                  | 6  |
| 4th " " . . . . .                 | 7  |
| 5th " " . . . . .                 | 7  |
| 6th " " . . . . .                 | 2  |

### ATTAINMENTS.

| Class. | No. |                                                                                 |
|--------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st.   | 10. | Parley's Common School History; orthography; writing; Vodges' U. S. Arithmetic. |
| 2d.    | 9.  | Reading; orthography; writing; and Vodges' U. S. Arithmetic.                    |
| 3d.    | 6.  | Comly's Reader; orthography; writing; Emerson's Arithmetic, Part 1st.           |
| 4th.   | 7.  | The Child's Second Reading Book; orthography; arithmetic; and writing.          |
| 5th.   | 7.  | The Child's First Reader; orthography; writing on slates.                       |
| 6th.   | 2.  | Know the letters.                                                               |

During the past year 27 girls were admitted, and 26 discharged. Of those admitted 6 could read, 8 were learning to read, 5 could spell by monosyllables, and 8 did not know the

letters; 10 could write their names, and 4 knew the multiplication table.

Of those discharged, 20 could read with ease, 7 beginning to read, 24 could write their names and had made some progress in arithmetic. I find, however, that in this branch of study the progress is not as marked as desirable.

In many instances, girls entering this Institution are either ignorant of the alphabet, or have little knowledge beyond the pronunciation of monosyllables. Unused as they have been, both to discipline and study, we cannot expect them to make very rapid progress. Among them, however, there are those who cheer us with the moral reform and intellectual improvement daily developed.

The religious instruction of the girls is principally received from the Matron, who teaches them portions of Scripture, as weekly lessons. These lessons they repeat before the Ladies' Committee, and receive in turn words of affectionate encouragement and advice.

During the year there were 1465 Library books loaned—making a weekly average of 28. These, with the Child's Paper, Temperance Gazette, Sabbath School Visitor, and Penny Gazette, are read with interest. To be refused the use of these *for a week*, is considered a grievous deprivation.

In conclusion, committing ourselves with our charge to the care of our heavenly Parent, who has kindly watched over us during the past year, and invoking a continuance of that care, this report is now respectfully submitted by

E. L. ELMES, *Teacher.*

PHILADELPHIA; *January 1st, 1856.*



TO THE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF THE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

---

GENTLEMEN,—I am of opinion that the Councils of the City of Philadelphia have full powers to make any provision they think proper from their corporate funds, for the maintenance and support of the children sent from the City limits to the House of Refuge.

By the existing laws of the State, the Managers of the House of Refuge are authorized, at their discretion, to receive into their care and guardianship—

1. Infants of incorrigible or vicious habits committed by city magistrates.
2. Infants committed by the same magistrates, where proof is made that they are proper subjects for the House of Refuge, in consequence of vagrancy, or incorrigible or vicious conduct, whose parents or guardians are incapable or unwilling to exercise proper care over them.
3. Infants committed by the Courts of the Commonwealth.

It would seem not only reasonable, but absolutely necessary, that such powers of commitment should carry with them an obligation to provide in some way for the maintenance of the persons who should become subject to their exercise. To give our magistrates authority for the preservation of public peace and public morals, to direct the confinement of juvenile offenders or vagrants, without any provision for their food and clothing, would be a violation of every principle upon which the administration of our criminal jurisprudence is founded; and in the absence of any positive law upon the subject, there would be, I think, an inevitable inference, justifying the necessary appropriation by any municipal corporation for that object.

But this power does not rest upon inference alone. The children in the House of Refuge are either those subject to conviction for petty offences, or vagrants or vicious poor. All these classes, whenever they are brought within the operation of our penal law, are undoubtedly required to be maintained at the cost of the City. If then any of them were refused admittance into the Refuge (and they cannot be admitted unless the Managers have the means of supporting them,) they must be sent to our prisons or our alms-houses, and will of course increase the expenses of those establishments which are now borne by the City. In fact, the very object of the benevolent founders of this asylum for destitute and vicious children was to withdraw them from our common prisons, and place them under physical and moral treatment which might tend to their reformation.

If, then, the City is bound by law to maintain these unfortunate classes of persons if sent to their prisons or alms-houses, where they are exposed to every species of contamination, they are surely equally so, when placed by their own magistrates in an Institution authorized by law to receive them, where their wants are more carefully supplied, their education attended to, and every effort for their reformation strenuously made.

But again. By the 6th section of the Consolidation Act, the corporation is vested with all the powers necessary for or incident to the proper government of the City; and by the 39th section they are authorized to levy taxes and apply them for these purposes. Among these powers and incidents, the establishment and regulation of an efficient system of police is not the least important. What that system shall be, and by what means it is to be carried out, is left to the enlightened judgment of the City legislature. If they should think that the strict enforcement of the laws authorizing the confinement of juvenile offenders, vagrants and vicious poor, in the House of Refuge, is necessary, for the protection of property and prevention of crime, they have a clear right to adopt it as a measure of preventive police, and incorporate it with the system they may have established. If they do so, and an appropriation should



be necessary to carry it into effect, they have the direct sanction of their municipal charter in making it.

Yours, respectfully,

HENRY J. WILLIAMS.

*Dec. 5, 1854.*

I concur in this opinion.

WILLIAM M. MEREDITH.

*Phila., 12th Dec. 1854.*

## AN ACT

ESTABLISHING FEES FOR COMMITMENTS TO HOUSES OF REFUGE.

*Approved, April 21st, 1855.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the fees upon commitments by any Alderman or Justice of the Peace to any House of Refuge within this State, shall be as follows, to wit: To any constable or officer, for arresting the person committed, fifty cents; to the alderman or justice of the peace directing the commitment, fifty cents; to the constable or other officer delivering the person committed, pursuant to such commitment, at the proper House of Refuge, one dollar, with mileage at the rate of five cents circular, for all distances travelled; said fees and mileage to be paid by the County in which the commitment is made. *Provided*, That no allowance for mileage shall be made unless the distance travelled shall exceed seven circular miles.



# AN ACT

RELATIVE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

*Approved, April 18th, 1855.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same—

That the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, be and they are hereby authorized annually to appropriate towards the support and maintenance of the House of Refuge, such sum at they may deem expedient, not exceeding Thirty Thousand Dollars, in any one fiscal year, payable in equal payments on the first Monday of February, May, August and November, in each and every year, the first payment thereof to be made on the first Monday of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

*Form of Commitment to the House of Refuge where a child is committed at the instance of the Prosecuting Officer of the County.*

County, ss :

WHEREAS, complaint and due proof have been made to us,  
President Judge of the Court of Com-  
mon Pleas of the County aforesaid, and one  
of the Associate Judges of the said Court, by  
the prosecuting officer of the said County, that  
an infant, aged is *unmanageable*, [or a *vagrant*,  
as the case may be,] and has no parent or guardian capable and  
willing to restrain, manage, and take proper care of such infant,  
and that the future welfare of said infant requires that  
should be placed under the care and guardianship of the said  
Managers of the House of Refuge; we, therefore, in pursuance  
of the Acts of Assembly, in such case made and provided, have  
carefully examined the said complaint to us, in the presence of

.....

•



EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY THOSE  
TO WHOM FORMER INMATES HAVE BEEN IN-  
DENTURED.

---

RELATIVE TO WHITE BOYS.

*“December, 1855.*

“I wish to say to you, that C. M. is one of the best of boys, and I wish to give him a good deal of credit. He has always been honest, uses no bad language, and is a very moral boy.”

---

*“December, 1855.*

“H. W.’s mother and grandmother were here to visit him in the fall, and they expressed much gratification at his situation; gave him some good advice, and cautioned him against the vice of intemperance, the failing of his father.”

---

*“December, 1855.*

“J. D. has, I believe, in every instance, obeyed my commands. I find him strictly honest and careful to tell the truth. He is very industrious and improves faster in learning his trade than any boy I ever had.”

---

*“December, 1855.*

“J. A. is one of the best boys in the neighborhood; I have taken a good deal of pains with him, but I think that if every one to whom boys are bound out from your Institution, would exercise a proper supervision over them, it would result in the conformation of those lessons which they receive there.”

---

*“December, 1855.*

“J. B. has been a very good boy since he has been with me. He appears to take an interest in his work, and so far as I am aware, is a trusty boy. He has never manifested a disposition to be disobedient; sometimes gets irritable when driving the



stock, like other boys. His schoolmates all appear to like him, and his teacher gives him a good name."

---

"December, 1855.

"The boy, L. K., has been a dutiful, good, attentive boy, and I feel satisfied that he will continue so."

---

"December, 1855.

"J. M. has been entirely obedient to my commands, is honest and truthful, attends night-school and a place of worship, and appears to take an interest in so doing. I would say, in conclusion, that the check he received in the Refuge will, in my opinion, benefit him during life."

---

"December, 1855.

"It affords me much pleasure to let you know that C. S. has been, thus far, a good, honest and industrious boy. I am much pleased with him."

---

"December, 1855.

"I have not the least fault to find with J. T. W. He has always been of an obliging disposition, and I have no doubt but that the lessons he has received in the Institution have had their good effect."

---

"December, 1855.

"J. B. is obedient and honest. It affords me pleasure to inform you that I believe your Institution wrought a perfect cure in him. He is now a consistent member of the — church."

---

"December, 1855.

"It is now about seven months since R. J. came under my authority, and since that time he has behaved himself very correctly, as much so as any boy I ever had. I have always found him strictly honest and punctual to discharge his duties, as they arise from day to day. He has been attending Sabbath-school through the summer."

*“December, 1855.*

“W. H. H. is a changed boy ; he is very obedient, perfectly honest, and keeps within the line of truth. He is very industrious, makes use of no bad words. He never goes to bed without reading a chapter in the Bible and prayer. He often asks a blessing at our table.”

RELATIVE TO WHITE GIRLS.

*“December, 1855.*

“E. H. is generally obedient. I believe she is honest and truthful. She is of a very good disposition, kind, and very gentle, but withal a little careless.”

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*“December, 1855.*

“We have reason to speak well of E. McC., for she has done far better than could be ordinarily expected of those who are destitute of early advantages. She was greatly profited by the discipline and instruction she received in your institution, and has manifested a desire to improve ever since she has been with us. If one-half of those who are sent out by you do as well as she has done, you have abundant reason to rejoice in the success of your endeavors, and to prosecute your labors with hopeful zeal.”

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*“December, 1855.*

“L. S., to the best of my knowledge, is honest and tells the truth. She has generally attended church, and at times has seemed seriously inclined, but it soon wears off. She is now at —, on a visit to her friends. We hear from her very often.”

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*“December, 1855.*

“M. G. generally obeys very well, and is cheerful about her



work. We have seen nothing dishonest about her. She has improved very much in her reading. I have nothing more to say than that her deportment and general behavior is good. I would ask the committee, if they should have another girl of pleasant disposition, about the time that M. is free, to let her come to me."

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Houses of Refuge, or Schools for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, have attracted the attention and received the cordial approbation of our best citizens, and are being established in many of the most populous States in the Union; and among other distinguished statesmen, the late De Witt Clinton expressed the opinion in one of his messages to the Legislature of New York, that the House of Refuge was the best institution of the kind that has ever been devised by the wit, or established by the beneficence of man. "It takes cognizance of vice in its embryo state, and redeems from ruin and sends forth for usefulness those depraved and unfortunate youth who are sometimes in a derelict state, sometimes without subsistence, and at all times without friends to guide them in the paths of virtue. The tendency of this noble charity is preventive as well as remedial; its salutary power has been felt and acknowledged, in breaking up the haunts of vice and the diminution of our criminal proceedings."

Another eminent writer on criminal jurisprudence, in speaking of the great importance of preventing the increase of convicts, by arresting children who have just commenced a ruinous course, and placing them in Schools of Reform, says: "It should always be remembered, in connection with this whole subject, that there is a sort of moral retribution, provided for in the very constitution of society, which visits upon us the just punishment of our neglect, or omission of duty, towards the ignorant and forsaken. If juvenile delinquency is allowed to pass with impunity, it will soon break forth into outrage and



crime of every description, and offences and offenders will multiply without number or end. If, on the other hand, we check the formation of the early habit, by removing the child from scenes of temptation and guilt—if we put him where restraint and wholesome discipline are connected with personal liberty and enjoyment, and with literary, moral and religious instruction—and then transfer him to the care and training of one of our good and faithful farmers or mechanics, to be taught some useful and profitable art of life; we are sure that the best interests of the community are subserved, while the individual himself is saved and blest.

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## DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DECEMBER TERM, 1838.

[Ex parte Crouse.—Habeas Corpus.]

PER CURIAM.—The House of Refuge is not a prison, but a school; where reformation, and not punishment, is the end. It may, indeed, be used as a prison for juvenile convicts, who would else be committed to a common jail; and in respect to these, the constitutionality of the act which incorporated it, stands clear of controversy. It is only in respect to the application of its discipline to the subjects admitted on the order of a court, a magistrate, or the managers of the Almshouse, that a doubt is entertained. The object of the charity is reformation, by training its inmates to industry; by imbuing their minds with principles of morality and religion; by furnishing them with means to earn a living; and, above all, by separating them from the corrupting influence of improper associates. To this end, may not the natural parents, when unequal to the task of education, or unworthy of it, be superseded by the *parens patriæ*, or common guardian of the community? It is to be remembered that the republic has a paramount interest in the virtue and knowledge of its members, and that, of strict right, the business of education belongs to it. That parents are ordinarily intrusted with it, is because it can seldom be put into

better hands: but where they are incompetent, or corrupt, what is there to prevent the public from withdrawing their faculties, held, as they obviously are, at its sufferance? The right of parental control, is a natural but not an unalienable one. It is not excepted by the Declaration of Rights out of the subjects of ordinary legislation; and it consequently remains subject to the ordinary legislative power, which, if wantonly or inconveniently used, would soon be constitutionally restricted, but the competency of which, as the government is constituted, cannot be doubted. As to abridgment of indefeasible rights by confinement of the person, it is no more than what is borne, to a greater or less extent, in every school; and we know of no natural right to exemption from restraints which conduce to an infant's welfare. Nor is there a doubt of the propriety of their application in this particular instance. The infant has been snatched from a course which must have ended in confirmed depravity; and, not only is the restraint of her person lawful, but it would be an act of extreme cruelty to release her from it.

Remanded.

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PERSONS desirous of obtaining apprentices from the Institution, will apply to JAMES L. BARRY, the Agent of The House of Refuge, at the office, on the north-east corner of Arch and Seventh streets.

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*Form of a Devise or Bequest.*

I do give, devise, and bequeath to "The House of Refuge"

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Donations and subscriptions will be thankfully received by any member of the Board of Managers.

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|------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| A life subscription is | - | - | - | - | \$50 |
| An annual " "          | - | - | - | - | 2    |